

Today's Topics:

2 meter or 220 MHz
bobtail antenna
FT727 CAT programming question
Interesting wire story on spectrum management
Noise on the air and in rec.ham-radio (3 msgs)

Date: Thu, 07 Dec 89 20:05 PST

From: Chris Thomas

<CSMSCST@OAC.UCLA.EDU>

Subject: 2 meter or 220 MHz

>Well I finally got around to passing the code and am waiting for the good ol'
> FCC to send me the Novice license. I am definetly going to go for the Tech.
> class license ASAP. My question is what type of rig should I start my HAM lif
> with. I have narowed my choices down to either a dual bander 2 meter/ 440MHz
> ora 220MHz handheld. Does anyone have any coments or suggestions on what band
> they like the best. I hear that 2 meter is very popular but is also very
>crowded in the urban areas. (where I will be setting up shop) Any replys
> wouldbe greatly appreciated.

Congratulations, and welcome to the club! You don't say whether you want to operate in the L.A. area, or somewhere else. The particular location has a lot to do with what's available. In the major metro areas, such as LA/Or Co, 220 is very active - there is a repeater almost every 20 Khz in the repeater subbands. There is also simplex activity. However, my experience traveling is that in many areas of the country, there is zero 220 activity. Denver is one such example. Although it is a large city, the only activity on 220 is a few crossband machines linked to 2m. 2m is active everywhere, so that's a safe bet. Although 2m is crowded, that only matters if you want to put up a repeater. Few of the existing repeaters even in LA are too crowded to be be able use easily. And unless you enjoy calling CQ, you *want* people out there to talk to! Again in the LA/Orange Co metroplex, IMHO, 440 is a wasteland. There are approximately 6 open repeaters in the whole area. The rest of the 10 Mhz is occupied by private machines, most of which seem to be used only a few minutes per day (not counting waking up every 10 minutes to ID).

So: 2m is always a safe bet. 220 is interesting, but is nearly unused in many areas. My experience with 440 is, it's only useful if some group you want to join already uses 440. The best solution would be a 2m/220 dual bander, but no one makes that in an H/T. I own a Kenwood TM-621 for home and a TM-721 for the car.

/Chris Thomas - WA6HTJ (AA6S-something if the FCC ever sends me
my new ticket)

Internet: csmscst@oac.ucla.edu
Bitnet: csmscst@uclamvs.bitnet

Date: 7 Dec 89 17:27:26 GMT
From: hp-ses!hpcuhb!hpscscd!rkarlqu@hplabs.hp.com (Rick Karlquist)
Subject: bobtail antenna
Message-ID: <5490078@hpscscd.scd.hp.com>

> A bunch of local folks went to a spot on the West side of Puget Sound
> for Field Day (near Seattle), and this gave us a water shot to the
> east. Rush Drake, W7RM, came along to help with antennas, and he
> saw a good spot for a bobtail curtain for 40 meters away from the main
> station location. We set up a couple of masts an a little rise just
> above the salt water, and strung up the curtain. The feedline came
>
> Running barefoot, George Ockwell, K7HBN stayed up all night on 40mtrs
> and ran up an amazing score. The bobtail curtain over salt water played
> KT7H @ N7HFZ.WA.USA.NA
> -----

That's interesting because a set of four phased verticals
actually located over shallow salt water at that same Puget Sound
location for Field Day in 1974 did not appear to have any particularly
spectacular performance. They got out OK, but probably not better than
a 2 element beam would have. Ask Rush if he remembers that setup.

N6RK

Date: 8 Dec 89 05:08:26 GMT
From: zephyr.ens.tek.com!orca.wv.tek.com!shamu!miker@uunet.uu.net (Mike Reiney)
Subject: FT727 CAT programming question
Message-ID: <5516@shamu.WV.TEK.COM>

Near as I can tell the CAT interface on the Yaesu FT-727 handheld
duplicates keypushes. I can't find any way to push the keys to get
it to go to a particular band. The u/d key toggles between bands,
but that isn't much help when you're using it remotely and can't
see the display.

Any ideas?

miker

Date: 8 Dec 89 05:05:43 GMT
From: ka9q.bellcore.com!karn@bellcore.com (Phil Karn)
Subject: Interesting wire story on spectrum management
Message-ID: <18526@bellcore.bellcore.com>

Study of Frequency Allocation System Launched

By JAY ARNOLD

Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) _ The Commerce Department began a study Thursday that could lead to an overhaul of an aging radio frequency allocation system under siege from cellular telephones, pagers and muscular new technologies such as high-definition television.

The National Telecommunications and Information Administration, part of the Commerce Department, invited public comment on the use and management of the radio frequency spectrum as a first step towards a study it said ``will establish the spectrum policy foundations that will lead the United States into the 21st century.''

The study will be the first major examination of the radio spectrum since the late 1960s.

The study will address the regulatory process, allocations, alternatives for apportioning spectrum, spectrum conservation and new technologies and forecasting future spectrum requirements.

New technologies promise more efficient use of the airwaves by sharing frequencies without causing interference. But federal regulators are hampered by the current system, which awards blocks of space to categories of users regardless of how much or how little those blocks ultimately are used.

The head of the Commerce Department agency, Janice Obuchowski, said changing technology, ``coupled with explosive growth in demand, makes spectrum reform more necessary today, and potentially more feasible, than it has been in past years.''

There is an increasing demand for airspace to accommodate more cellular telephones and new communications devices that are being developed, such as wrist-sized pagers and automobile tracking equipment.

High-definition television, if it is to become a reality in the next decade, will need more of the frequency spectrum. UHF television stations may end up sharing some of their airwaves with these new technologies.

The government has been criticized for not using its own frequency allocations efficiently, and the House is considering a bill by Rep. John Dingell, D-Mich., that would require the

government to relinquish frequencies for private use.

The Commerce Department agency said its study will examine possible changes in the current spectrum allocation system, increased sharing of airwaves between government and private users and whether some users may be able to switch to new delivery systems such as fiber optic cable.

Radio systems with fixed transmitters and receivers could be linked by fiber, which has vastly greater capacity and needs less long-distance amplification in comparison with copper wire or coaxial cables.

Obuchowski acknowledged that it would be difficult to persuade existing users to give way to others and said the agency's recommendations, if adopted by the Federal Communications Commission, would not mean ``radical'' changes in spectrum allocation that could make obsolete billions of dollars worth of radio and television equipment.

She said she favored auctions of spectrum for new commercial licenses or leases, in much the same way the government leases public land for grazing or oil exploration.

Obuchowski said she hopes to have the study completed next year.

Date: 8 Dec 89 01:42:54 GMT
From: hpl-opus!hpnmdla!alanb@hplabs.hp.com (Alan Bloom)
Subject: Noise on the air and in rec.ham-radio
Message-ID: <1250094@hpnmdla.HP.COM>

"if you dont know how to send EMAIL", you probably also don't know what "RTFM" means. I have figured out what BTW and IMHO mean, but RTFM is a new one for me????

Al N1AL
t

Date: 8 Dec 89 07:41:14 GMT
From: chuq@apple.com (Chuq Von Rospach)
Subject: Noise on the air and in rec.ham-radio
Message-ID: <37117@apple.Apple.COM>

alanb@hpnmdla.HP.COM (Alan Bloom) writes:

> I have figured out what BTW and IMHO mean, but RTFM is
>a new one for me????

Read the, um, Manual.

--

Chuq Von Rospach <+> chuq@apple.com <+> [This is myself speaking]

When it comes to matters outside your specialties, you are consistently and brilliantly stupid [....] with respect to matters you haven't studied and have had no experience basing your opinions on casual gossip [....] and plain misinformation -- unsuspected because you haven't attempted to verify it.

-- Robert Heinlein to J.W. Campbell, Jr. 1941

Date: 8 Dec 89 07:42:15 GMT
From: chuq@apple.com (Chuq Von Rospach)
Subject: Noise on the air and in rec.ham-radio
Message-ID: <37118@apple.Apple.COM>

alanb@hpnmdla.HP.COM (Alan Bloom) writes:

>"if you dont know how to send EMAIL", you probably also don't know what
>"RTFM" means. I have figured out what BTW and IMHO mean, but RTFM is
>a new one for me????

Actually, I think there's a message in news.announce.newusers where you could have RTFM about RTFM, but that's another issue.

chuq (he said, ROFL)

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Chuq Von Rospach <+> chuq@apple.com <+> [This is myself speaking]

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